Slum Development Programme (NSDP) was launched at the National level by the Government in August, 1996 for the development of urban slums. Under this Programmes, funds in the form of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) are allocated by the Planning Commission on the basis of slum population of the State/Union Territory for development of Urban Slums which also includes provision of basic amenities such as water supply, storm water drains, community bath, widening and paving of existing lanes, sewers, community latrines, street lights etc. While the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs releases the funds to the States under this Programme, the Ministry of Home Affairs releases the funds to Union Territories. The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation is only monitoring the progress of Programme.

A new scheme called Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) has been launched in December, 2001 to provide shelter/upgraded shelter to the urban slum dwellers living below poverty line, including those belonging to economically weaker sections. This scheme has a component for providing community toilet facility also to slum dwellers. The Central Government provides a subsidy to the projects of the State Governments to the extent of 50%, while the balance is to be met by the State Governments either through loans from the housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) or other agencies or contribution from any other source.

Failure of centrally sponsored programmes

1323. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has failed to implement the Centrally-sponsored programmes as over 3,000 projects involving over Rs. 300 crores were lying unused with his Ministry, State Governments and other implementing agencies all over the country;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted;

(c) if so, the main reasons for failure to utilise money set for the purpose;

(d) who are mainly responsible for not utilising money;

(e) the action taken against them; and

(f) the steps being taken to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Under the various centrally sponsored schemes funds are released by the Central Government to the State Governments/ Implementing Agencies and no funds are lying unutilized with the Central Government. However, some funds remain unutilized with State Governments/Implementing Agencies in the course of implementation of the projects. The financial and physical progress under various Centrally sponsored schemes is regularly monitored by Central Government through quarterly progress reports, review meetings and field visits.

DDA under scanner

1324. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken a decision to place DDA under the microscope scanner to cull out graft;

(b) if so, whether there would be a nodal officer monitoring the DDA and a special task force for fly-overs;

(c) if so, to what extent this will help to combat the rampant corruption and the presence of touts and middlemen; and

(d) to what extent it has helped

Government to check the corruption in this department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) The Government has instructed DDA to improve its functioning through computerization, elimination of subjectivity, strengthening of grievances redressal mechanism and bring transparency in its functioning and check corruption.